

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings †

California Medical Association. Meetings will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-third annual session, to be held in 1944, Sunday, Monday, May 7-8.

American Medical Association. Sessions will be held in Chicago (not St. Louis) on June 12-16, 1944. (See *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, November 6, 1943, page 644.)

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays.

KFAC presents the Saturday program at 10:15 a. m., under the title "Your Doctor and You."

In January, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the dates of January 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a. m., under the title "The Road of Health."

"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, in coöperation with the National Broadcasting Company and the Medical Department of the United States Army and the United States Navy, are on the air each Saturday at 2 p. m., Pacific War Time. Series will commence on January 8, 1944. Will run for twenty-six weeks.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

*County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*

1. *New Journals:* Welcome to W. B. Cannon and H. E. Sigerist's *American Review of Soviet Medicine*, which got such heavy publicity. First issue (October, 1943) has articles on frostbite effect on sympathetics (N. N. Burdenko), time factor in restorative surgery of peripheral nerves (V. V. Lebedenko), and our Mike Shimkin's survey of cancer research in U. S. S. R., and P. M. Dawson's account (not in simplified spelling) of U. S. S. R. physical culture. Sleekily elegant, obviously not bothered by restrictions, is *Revista Argentine-Norteamericana de Ciencias Medicas*, offering B. A. Houssay's full review of the rôle of the pituitary on carbohydrate metabolism (1:145, 1943) and translated pot-boilers from U. S. A. (N. B.: Very expensive are Argentine medical items: "El Ateneo," Buenos Aires, offers W. T. Fotheringham's two-volume *Operaciones Urgentes* for \$50, and R. Dassen's *Diagnostico Diferencial Y Tratamiento de las Enfermedades Internas*, Second Edition, 774 pages, for \$30). Worthy is *Revista de Instituto Adolfo Lutz* (Department of Public Health, Sao Paulo), in which F. Almeida & Co. offer a neat review of pathogenic yeast diseases (2:326, 1942).

2. *Confirmations:* J. Ruiz-Gijon (Madrid) confirms many that dose-effect curve of cat blood pressure effects of epinephrin is hyperbolic (*Arch. Exp. Path. Pharmacol.*, 201:305, 1943). Also reporting axis-wise is T. Gotsev (Sofia) in confirmation of old J. Blake (*Amer. Jour. Med. Sc.*, 15:63, 1848) that magnesium salts lower blood pressure (*Arch. Exp. Path. Pharmacol.*, 201:322, 1943). Pal N. Davis & Co., without benefit of helpful advice, confirm (*West. Jour. Surg., Obs., Gyn.*, 51:419, 1943) E. Poth and C. Ross's careful work showing phthalylsulfathiazol better than succinylsulfathiazol in handling watery diarrhea (*Fed. Proc.*, 2:89, 1943, and more fully in winter 1943 issue of *Tex. Rep. Biol. Med.*) H. P. Himsworth (*Lancet*, 245:465, October 16, 1943) confirms E. B. Astwood (*J. A. M. A.*, 122:78, 1943) that thiourea, 3 grams daily, greatly benefits cases of thyrotoxicosis. However, J. B. and C. G. MacKenzie (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 54:34, 1943) find that thiourea tends to cause pulmonary edema in older rats, in addition to increasing the size of the thyroid.

3. *From Instituto Oswaldo Cruz:* Watch G. G. Villela's studies on antitoxic principles from liver (*Rev. Brasil Biol.*, 1:431, 1941; 2:365, 1942; 3:99, 1943; *O Hosp.*, 21:201, 1942). H. Linhares offers evidence on possible insect transmission of leprosy (*Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, 38:321, 1943). M. I. Mello offers rapid chemical test for use in diagnosis of pregnancy on basis of estimation of gonadotropic hormone in urine (*Rev. Brasil Biol.*, 3:119, 1943).

4. *Anesthesia:* R. M. Waters reviews carbon-dioxide absorption (*Anesth.* 4:596, 1943). P. S. Ross and R. O. Allen discuss electronarcosis (*Ibid.*, p. 630). F. M. Allen and L. W. Crossman survey refrigeration anesthesia (*Anesth. and Analg.*, 22:264, 1943). N. A. Gillespi (*Ibid.*, p. 275) emphasizes importance of A. E. Guedel's "signs of anesthesia" (*Inhalation Anesthesia*, New York, 1937). R. K. Richards and K. Kueter (*Ibid.*, p. 283) confirm R. Beutner and H. Wastl (*Anesth.*, 2:661, 1941) that calcium salts reduce toxicity of local anesthetic agents.

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacologic Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

5. *Et Cetera*: M. L. Tainter proposes methyl cellulose as a colloid laxative (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 54:77, 1943). J. V. Scudi and M. T. Hamlin report on distribution and slow excretion of atabrine (*Ibid.*, p. 127), but fail to note liver injury following accumulation there. J. H. Gaddum reports on big Faraday Society symposium on drug action (*Nature*, 152:495, October 30, 1943). J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, reprints as book J. C. Aub & Company's *Management of Coconut Grove Burns at MGH* (*Ann. Surg.*, 117, June, 1943). G. Brownlee and I. M. Tonkin study acridine powder in wound therapy (*Quart. Jour. Pharm. and Pharmacol.*, 16:73, 1943). J. H. Gaddum designs toxicity tests in comparison with standards (*Ibid.*, p. 78). M. Maizels discusses physico-chemical changes occurring in stored blood (*Quart. Jour. Exp. Physiol.*, 32:143, 1943). R. E. Tunbridge and J. V. Wilson survey pathological and clinical findings in blast injury (*Quart. Jour. Med.*, 12:169, 1943). F. M. Burnet and D. R. Bull find influenza virus mutations on chick embryo passage (*Austral. Jour. Exp. Biol. Med. Sci.*, 21:55, 1943). D. Engel and E. Forrai (*Jour. Physiol.*, 102:127, 1943) find increased capillary permeability in traumatic shock limited sharply to area around trauma. H. J. Seddon & Co. find rate of regeneration of peripheral nerves in man after suture to be about 1.5 mm. per day (*Ibid.*, p. 191). B. Gerstl and R. Tennant explore enzymes as factors in resistance to tuberculosis (*Yale Jour. Biol. Med.*, 16:1, 1943). Merck & Co. also issue a bibliography on penicillin and other antibiotics.

Southern California Medical Association: One Hundred Eighth Meeting.—War-time health problems that have developed in this area were considered at the 108th semi-annual meeting of the Southern California Medical Association, held on December 10 and 11 at the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Led by Dr. John F. Kessel, the opening session of the conference at 2 p. m., Friday, featured a symposium on tropical diseases which have become of a vital interest to home front physicians, with the return of many casualties from the Pacific war zone. Epidemic diseases of importance during war time composed the theme of the symposium conducted on Saturday, December 11. The topic discussed at the afternoon session was on the recent advances in surgery.

Allergy: Sixth Annual Forum Will Meet in St. Louis.—This international postgraduate society was founded in 1938 at Cincinnati, Ohio, to provide a place in which to review the progress of clinical allergy, to afford in peace times a forum for the younger members, and to offer intensive postgraduate instruction to physicians working in other fields. The founders were Dr. Tell Nelson of Chicago, Illinois; Dr. Karl D. Figley of Toledo, Ohio; and Dr. Jonathan Forman. Meetings have been held each year since.

In 1940 the name was changed to correspond to the international character of its attendance and the Forum's Gold Medal and annual oration were established as a means of recognizing outstanding contributions to clinical allergy.

The Sixth Annual Forum on Allergy will be held in the Statler Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23, 1944. This is a meeting to which all reputable physicians are most welcome, and where they are offered an opportunity to bring themselves up to date in this rapidly advancing branch of medicine by two days of intensive postgraduate instruction. . . . Good fellowship at luncheon, dinner, and smoker reigns throughout the two days. The meeting offers an exceptionally fine opportunity to meet and to come to know many distinguished

authorities in this more and more important but new field of medicine.

American Board of Ophthalmology.—Effective January 1, 1944, the executive office of the American Board of Ophthalmology will move to: P. O. Box 1940, Portland 2, Maine.

Please send all Board correspondence to this new address. Examinations in 1944 will be held in New York City, June 3 and 4; Chicago, October 5, 6, and 7.

It's Wise to Immunize.—Under the caption, "It's Wise to Immunize," the Health Department of the city of Pasadena has issued the following bulletin:

With the many new babies being born, and the general impression of people from various parts of the country, it is again necessary to remind parents of their responsibility in seeing that their children are protected against smallpox and diphtheria. Immunization against whooping cough is now reasonably effective, and the use of tetanus-toxoid is definitely indicated. In the Health Department's child hygiene conference the combined "diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough" immunization is now being used. The immunity or protection given is as complete as with the separate products. Three immunizations, at from one month to six weeks intervals, are required. The recommended age to begin these immunization procedures is nine months. It is very important that every child be protected against these diseases before reaching his first birthday.

Immunity levels against smallpox in our adult population are lower than they have been for two decades. It is approximately twenty years since a serious outbreak of smallpox stimulated response to a vaccination program. With the rapid turnover of population and the great influx of civilian workers to the war industries of Southern California, smallpox in any corner of the United States is potentially smallpox here. Be safe and check up on your small-pox immunity by smallpox vaccination.

Fake Operator.—An impostor, who has been asking advance deposits from California physicians on supply orders supposedly taken for the Manhattan Manufacturing Company of Chicago, has been entirely disclaimed by that company. He has used the name of Lancaster in his California operations and has written up his supposed orders on a type of order book easily obtained in any stationery store. Physicians are warned to be on the lookout for this operator and to make sure that any orders given for supplies are on the basis of catalogue details or other good evidence presented by the salesman. If the agent is not known to you, do not pay him any money; instead, offer to send your payment direct to the company. Above all, look out for any salesman offering standard merchandise at a cut rate. He is likely to be an impostor who will pocket your payment and disappear.

Valley Doctor, Eighty-Six, Aids War Effort.—Dr. Frank Prentice, the man who was too old to join our armed forces, is today mining. He has reopened the old Imperial Lodge mine thirty-five miles south of Daggett, California. The property was originally operated as the Imperial Connor mine.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Doctor Prentice, eighty-six, slightly over five feet in height and weighing about 135 pounds, applied at a naval recruiting station in San Francisco and was turned down. Determined to play his part, he took more than forty men who had been rejected by the Navy, due to physical disability, and put them through a course of training making it possible for them to pass.

Today he is mining lead and silver for the war effort.—*Sacramento Union*, November 16.

American College of Surgeons: California Initiates in 1943.—Frederick E. Blume, Oakland; A. Morse Bowles,

Santa Rosa; Frank A. M. Bryant, Los Angeles; Marion C. Collins, Turlock; Lewis N. Cozen, Los Angeles; Walter H. Drane, Los Angeles; James S. Elliot, San Francisco; Orwyn H. Ellis, Los Angeles; Clinton V. Ervin, Jr., San Francisco; William M. Fitzhugh, Jr., San Francisco; Richard J. Flanson, Los Angeles; Claudius Y. Gates, San Francisco; Louis J. Gogol, Los Angeles; Victor Goodhill, Los Angeles; H. Hoffman Groskloss, Long Beach; Lee Hand, San Francisco; Andrew M. Henderson, Jr., Sacramento; Ernest C. Hillyer, Long Beach; T. Richard Hoffmann, Berkeley; Nelson J. Howard, San Francisco; F. Harriman Jones, Long Beach; Russell R. Klein, San Francisco; Raphael J. Koff, Los Angeles; Sanford E. Leeds, San Francisco; Purvis L. Martin, San Diego; Paul McChesney, Berkeley; Horace J. McCorkle, San Francisco; Louis C. Olker, Chico; John R. Paxton, Glendale; Robert O. Pearman, San Luis Obispo; Robert J. Prentiss, San Diego; Frederick Schlumberger, Los Angeles; Wesley E. Scott, San Francisco; Hall Seely, San Francisco; G. Arnold Stevens, Los Angeles; Vance M. Strange, San Francisco; Charles M. Taylor, Los Angeles; Omer W. Wheeler, Riverside; William F. Williams, Oakland; Sheldon K. Wirt, Santa Cruz; Henry B. Woo, San Francisco; Harry A. Zide, Los Angeles.

Warning—In Re: Triplicate Narcotic Blanks.—Due to the increasing number of cases wherein narcotics are indicated, physicians are warned to anticipate their need for Triplicate Narcotic Prescription Blanks sufficiently far in advance so that their supply will not become exhausted, thus causing them inconvenience, and possible embarrassing situations.

Although there is a provision in the California law permitting physicians to write narcotic prescriptions on other than the Triplicate Narcotic Prescription Blank in an emergency (epidemic, disaster, etc.), it will save much unnecessary writing if these blanks are obtained in advance.

The California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement desires to cooperate with physicians to the fullest extent, and will forward the blanks immediately upon request, by special delivery if necessary. Write, telephone, or wire to: Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, 156 State Building, San Francisco, California. (Telephone: Underhill 8700, Local 560.)

Deaths From Use of "Doryl": Notice From the California State Department of Public Health, 521 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2, California.—Death of several patients has resulted from intravenous injection of Doryl (carbamylcholine chloride), a powder manufactured by Merck & Company, according to information reaching the State Department of Public Health.

Doryl is distributed in three forms:

1. A powder intended for use as an eye wash and packed in 1 c.c. ampoules, each ampoule containing .15 grams (150 milligrams) of Doryl (600 times the hypodermic therapeutic dose). Apparently this is the product which has caused death when injected hypodermically due to confusion with liquid Doryl described under (2).

2. A liquid intended for administration intravenously, also packed in 1 c.c. ampoules, but containing only one-quarter of a milligram of Doryl. This is the usual hypodermic dose intended and used for treatment of urinary retention.

3. A powder as described in (1) but packed in a small screw-cap bottle, which distinguishes it from the liquid ampoule (2).

On the label of both the ampoules and the bottles of powdered Doryl there is printed a warning against injection intravenously. However, due to the fact that powdered Doryl was formerly packed in 1 c.c. ampoules, mistakes apparently have occurred which have resulted in death.

Local health officers have been advised by the State Department of Public Health to seize from druggists all 1 c.c. ampoules of powdered Doryl and to warn physicians and hospitals against the hypodermic administration of powdered Doryl.

Friday Night Lecture Series in Los Angeles.—A series of eight lectures is being arranged, to be given at the Los Angeles County Medical Association Building, 1925 Wilshire Boulevard, at 8 p. m., on the following Friday nights:

January 21 and 28.

February 4, 18, and 25.

March 3, 17, and 24.

These talks will be practical and instructive.

The subjects will be of the greatest importance to the practicing physician in his relations with law enforcement bodies and with the community. A partial list of topics follows:

"The Coroner's Office and the Practicing Physician."

"The Workmen's Compensation Law and the Practicing Physician."

"Legal and Medico-Legal Aspects of Drug Addiction."

"The Doctor in Court."

"So You Are Going to Be a Witness, Doctor."

It is planned to permit questions from the floor on the occasion of each discussion.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

HARTLEY F. PEART, ESQ.

San Francisco

Consent Required for Operations Upon Married Women Under Twenty-One Years of Age

It is an established legal principle that a physician or surgeon cannot operate upon a person without his or her consent or, if the patient is legally incapable of consenting, then the consent of someone authorized by law to give consent must be obtained. The general question of operations upon persons legally incompetent to consent to same has been considered in previous issues of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (see Medical Jurisprudence, March, 1939, Vol. 50, No. 3, page 241). One class of persons who are by law incompetent to give consent are minors. The question has been raised, particularly in reference to wives of service men, whether a married woman less than twenty-one years of age may legally authorize surgery or some other medical procedure to be performed upon her person.

Ordinarily, any person less than twenty-one years of age is considered a minor, and the consent of his or her parent or other legal guardian must be obtained before an operation can be performed. There are, however, several statutes in California, with reference to the effect of marriage, which modify this rule. *California Civil Code*, Sec. 204, provides that the authority of a parent ceases upon the child's marriage. *Civil Code*, Sec. 25, in defining minors as all persons under twenty-one years of age, contains a limitation to this rule to the effect that any female who has contracted a lawful marriage and is of the age of eighteen or over, shall be deemed to be of the age of majority and to be an adult person for the purpose of entering into any engagement or transaction respecting property or her estate, or for the purpose of entering into any contract, the same as if she was twenty-one years of

† Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from the syllabi of recent decisions, and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.